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LB 75

can eat it as cornflakes. You can drink it as corn liquor if that's your propensity. But it should not be in automobile tanks. Senator Connealy knows that if corn was to be in automobile tanks it would have been created as fuel.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It wouldn't have been created as little kernels on a cob designed for human consumption. This is a bad bill however it is viewed. The public overwhelmingly purchases regular gasoline. Even when there are three pumps, regular, ethanol, and premium, ethanol comes in third. It should have to stand on its own merits which it cannot because it lacks merit. I am in favor of my amendment and opposed to the bill.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members. I rise in opposition to the amendment to the amendment. Just as a practical matter, this amendment is going to create all kinds of mischief. We haven't defined bulk tanks for people who retail fuel to farmers, ranchers, it says tanks and those are retail tanks. It's simply bulk. And we've also not defined how we're going to define a tank if it's compartments. I know that a lot of tanks hold two products. There are compartments within a tank. That's not answered in this amendment so I rise in opposition to both amendments. Speaking to the bill which we're going to have to decide on here before too many more hours, and these are facts that were in the Lincoln Journal yesterday pointing out the increase in ethanol sales in Nebraska. Ethanol in 1999 was 24 percent of the fuel that we sold, 215 million gallons; in 2000, 35 percent, 295 million gallons. This was in the Lincoln Journal yesterday. Things are going up, they're looking up. We're moving right along where we want to go. Thirty-five percent of the gasoline sold in the state had 10 percent ethanol blended in it last year. It's price sensitive, no question about it. I do disagree with Senator Chambers when he says it's an inferior product. It's not an inferior product. If we can sell 89 octane ethanol at the same price or less than 87 octane no lead, that's a bargain for the